

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CONSULAR TITLES FOR REGIONAL OFFICERS

REF: STATE 293090

1. THE NEA REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE (RCO) AND REGIONAL SECURITY HEADQUARTERS(RSS) ARE NOW LOCATED IN KARACHI. THESE OFFICES ARE UNDER THE SUPERVISION, RESPECTIVELY, OF ROBERT P. RICHARDSON, FSR-3, REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, AND MARVIN L. GARRETT, JR., FSRU-3, REGIOOEL SECURITY SUPERVISOR.

2. AT THE PRESENT TIME THESE OFFICERS DO NOT HAVE CONSULAR OR DIPLOMATIC TITLES BUT WE BELIEVE THEY MEET THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN 3 FAM 615.3. FOR THE CONFERRAL OF CONSULAR TITLES: (A) THEY ARE ASSIGNED TO AND RESIDENT AT AN ESTABLISHED CONSULAR POST: (B) EACH DIRECTS A MAJOR PROGRAM ACTIVITY. IN ADDITION THEY ARE REQUIRED TO DEAL WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS, SUCH AS CUSTOMS, POLICE AND AIRPORT AUTHORITIES. IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE EXPEDITIOUS MOVEMENT OF CLASSIFIED EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS FROM POST TO POST, OFTEN ON AN URGENT BASIS, AND IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND PROMPTLY TO EMERGENCIES AT THE POSTS THAT THEY COVER.

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3. IF MR. GARRETT AND MR. RICHARDSON POSSESSED

CONSULAR TITLES, THE GOP WOULD ISSUE THEM DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY CARDS AND STAMP 'DIPLOMATIC' IN THEIR PASSPORTS. SINCE THEY LACK CONSULAR TITLES THE GOP HAS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS PRACTICE OF DISTINGUISHING SHARPLY BETWEEN DIPLOMATS (A CATEGORY WHICH EMBRACES CONSULAR OFFICERS) AND NON-DIPLOMATS, ISSUED THEM EXPLICITLY NON-DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY CARDS AND HAS STAMPED 'NON-DIPLOMATIC' IN THEIR PASSPORTS. ORDINARILY A DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT ADEQUATELY ESTABLISHES ONE'S STATUS IN THE HOST COUNTRY AND FACILITATES MOVEMENT FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY. HOWEVER, IN THE NEA AREA, AND PARTICULARLY IN ARAB COUNTRIES, THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE. PASSPORTS ARE CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED TO DETERMINE WHAT COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN VISITED. IN THE PROCESS OF THIS SCRUTINY IT IS OFTEN NOTED THAT MESSRS. GARRETT AND RICHARDSON ARE 'NON-DIPLOMATS' IN THE EYES OF THE GOP. THE RESULTANT DELAYS AND INQUIRIES IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED THEIR ABILITY TO PERFORM THEIR FUNCTIONS. EXAMPLES:

A. ENTERING AND LEAVING PAKISTAN AT KARACHI ALWAYS INVOLVES DELAYS. BOTH OFFICERS ARE INVARIABLY ASKED THEIR LENGTH OF STAY IN KARACHI, WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN, THEIR SPECIFIC ADDRESSEES, ETC. AUTHORITIES REVIEW THE PASSPORTS AT LENGTH. ADDITIONALLY, WHILE ESCORTING DEPARTING VISITORS THE TWO OFFICERS HAVE BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO EVEN THE UNSANITIZED PORTION OF THE DEPARTURE LOUNGE AT KARACHI AIRPORT ON THE BASIS OF THEIR NON-DIPLOMATIC STATUS. THIS HAPPENED TO GARRETT ON ONE OCCASION WHEN HE WAS ASSISTING ONE OF THE RSO'S HE SUPERVISES WHO HAD BEEN ON CONSULTATION IN KARACHI EN ROUTE TO HIS ASSIGNMENT IN DACCA.

B. RCO RICHARDSON EXPERIENCED DIFFICULTIES WITH KARACHI CUSTOMS ON HIS RETURN FROM A FIELD TRIP WHILE CARRYING A DIPLOMATIC POUCH AND NON-PRO COURITER LETTER BECAUSE OF THE "NON-DIPLOMATIC" STAMP IN HIS DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, AS THE OFFICIALS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO RECONCILE THE CONFLICTING DESIGNATIONS.

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C. ON ENTERING THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC, RSS GARRETT WAS REQUIRED TO OPEN HIS PERSONAL LUGGAGE WHICH CONTAINED SENSITIVE ITEMS BEING DELIVERED FROM KUWAIT. DBME 30 MINUTES WERE SPENT IN DEBATE. THE DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT MEANT VERY LITTLE.

D. WHILE TRAVELING IN AND OUT OF BEIRUT, RSS GARRETT HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN QUESTIONED AS TO WHERE

HE WAS STATIONED, HIS FUNCTION AND WHY HE DID NOT POSSESS A DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY CARD. THE LATTER HAS GREATER IMPACT THAN A PASSPORT.

E. WHEN TRAVELING FROM BEIRUT TO DAMASCUS AND RETURN VIA THE DAMASCUS ROAD, RSS GARRETT SPENT

40 MINUTES AT THE BORDER ATTEMPTING TO GO FROM ONE COUNTRY TO THE OTHER. BOTH THE LEBANESE AND SYRIANS ADMONISHED THE TRAVELER FOR NOT HAVING A "CARTEIRA" OF IDENTITY.

4. THE ABILITY OF GARRETT AND RICHARDSON TO PERFORM THEIR FUNCTIONS EFFECTIVELY COULD BE STILL MORE SERIOUSLY IMPAIRED THAN IT WAS IN THE INCIDENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE, IN THE EVENT OF VIP VISITS TO PAKISTAN. THE RSS AND RCO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATING COMMUNICATIONS AND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS WITH SENIOR PAKISTANI OFFICIALS. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AND AWKWARD FOR THEM TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WITHOUT THE MOBILITY AND AUTHORITY THAT WOULD BE CONFERRED ON THEM BY POSSESSION OF CONSULAR TITLES.

5. IT IS CONCLUDED FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THE RSS AND RCO SINCE BEING ASSIGNED TO KARACHI THAT THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND EFFECTIVE CONTACT WITH GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE WOULD BE FACILITATED BY THE POSSESSION OF CONSULAR TITLES AND DIPLOMATIC IDENTITY DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY THE GOP. THEREFORE, WE URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT APPOINT MR. GARRETT AND MR. RICHARDSON AS CONSULAR OFFICERS AND CONFER ON THEM CONSULAR ASSIGNMENT COMMISSIONS AS CONSULS.

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